

OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Weather: Temperatures continued to cool down across the State this past week, and an increase of precipitation was noticed in some parts. Several areas in the Willamette Valley received between one and two inches of rainfall, and some coastal areas saw more than two inches of rainfall. Snowfall was seen in some high-elevation areas of northeast Oregon. Cooler daytime temperatures created ideal conditions for fieldwork. Nighttime temperatures fell in the lower to mid twenties in some areas of south central and northeast Oregon.

Field Crops: Seeding of fall grain was well advanced before the rains began in Western Oregon. Planting and field preparation continued over much of the rest of the State. In the north central area, traces of rain fell. However, more rain was needed for fall seeded grains. The sugarbeet harvest continued. In northeastern Oregon, some mint and alfalfa fields were irrigated to establish good growth before winter dormancy. In the Willamette Valley, most of the new fields of tall fescue to be seeded this fall were in. Some red clover seed remained to be harvested. Most field operations, other than harvesting and planting, involved winter preparation.

Vegetables: Fall had arrived in vegetable country with wet, cool weather. Vegetables such as pumpkins, squash, melons and salad greens, were still available in adequate supplies. There were still lots of tomatoes, sweet corn, bell peppers and cucumbers at farmers markets. Recent rains had increased disease and rot in tomatoes and powdery mildew on the pumpkins. Potato harvest was almost complete in Baker and Klamath counties, with above average yields reported.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nursery activities included large trees and plants being balled and burlapped for shipment out of the State. Greenhouses finishing up fall plants and working on winter plants. Commercial Easter lily bulb harvest and shipping continues on the southern Oregon coast. Christmas tree growers getting ready to start harvest.

Fruit and Nuts: Wine grape harvest continued as the different varieties reach the proper sugar levels. There are now eight hazelnut orchards that have discovered Eastern Filbert Blight in the southern Willamette Valley. Winter pear harvest was virtually complete Statewide with late season apples still being harvested. Cranberry harvest continued on the southern coast. Fall orchard cleanup spaying began.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Cooler temperatures accompanied by moisture were enjoyed across most of the State last week. However, rainfall was limited in southwestern Oregon and pastures in Jackson County were being used up quickly. Pasture regrowth minimal Statewide. Ranchers were busy weaning calves, gathering cattle, providing supplemental feed and some shipping of early spring calves. Cattle herds reported to be in good condition heading into the fall season.

Crop Progress Week Ending 10/12/03

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Winter wheat planted (%)	51	46	27	41
Winter wheat emerged (%)	23	16	7	21
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.4	7.0	—	—

Soil Moisture Week Ending 10/12/03

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	30	56	14	—
Subsoil (%)	52	37	10	1

Crop Condition Week Ending 10/12/03

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Range & Pasture (%)	20	37	42	1	—

CLACKAMAS: Seeding of fall grain was well advanced before the rains began. Preparation of berry fields for the winter is nearly completed. Fall vegetables are still available in adequate supplies. Pumpkins are moving into the marketplace for Halloween and U-Pick patches are gearing up for the season. Nursery activity for shipping containers and balled and burlapped material is picking up. Livestock continue in good condition, but still on supplemental feed. Pastures beginning to show a little regrowth.

COOS\CURRY: Cranberry harvest continued. Commercial Easter lily harvest continued. Weather: Coastal AgriMet weather stations recorded 0.60" precipitation at Brookings-Harbor and 0.53" at Bandon. This was enough to satisfy one irrigation with excellent uniformity, but was inadequate to replenish surface water supplies needed for the cranberry harvest. Minimum cranberry crop level unsheltered. Temperature at Bandon was 34.7 deg F on 10/9/03.

JACKSON: Continued dry weather preventing growth of dry land crops. Some grains being seeded in dry soil. Fall tillage underway. Most pear growers are finished harvesting; those that aren't will finish next week. Fall cleanup sprays are beginning. Field preparation for fall planting still being done, but soil is really quite dry. Some hay, both grass and alfalfa, being made, but slowing down now as irrigation water is about over for the year, and there hasn't been rain for several weeks now. Still some pear harvest being done, but that is about over for this year. Still some apples being picked, too. Wine grape harvest continuing as the different varieties reach the correct sugar levels. Berry harvest is done. Vegetables still being harvested, but now mostly pumpkins, melons, and fall squash. Still lots of tomatoes, sweet corn, bell peppers, and cucumbers at the markets for sale. Greenhouses are in clean-up and maintenance work, with some still finishing fall and winter flowers. Nurseries doing lots of fall maintenance of stock on hand, mostly watering and feeding. Still selling fall and winter plants and shrubs. Livestock looking quite good if on good pastures or supplemental feed. Lots of weaning and shipping of early spring calves. Pastures are being used up quite fast with no rain, and irrigation mostly done for the year. This week was a bit cooler with days in the low seventies and nights in the low forties.

JOSEPHINE: Cooler nighttime temperatures have helped considerably. Apples are ripening fast for those who have them. Later apples still on trees. Some grapes are still being harvested and taken to wineries in the area. Daytime temperatures are perfect working weather. Truck gardens all have their Halloween faces on. Still irrigating but frequency down.

LANE: Small fruits mostly done. Apples and winter pears still being picked. A few Asian pears available. Hazelnut and walnut crop being harvested. Hazelnut crop looks mediocre, with yields running around 2000 per acre. More Eastern Filbert Blight found in the lower valley, now with eight orchards with "finds". Fall vegetables still coming on strong, but winter rains increase disease and rot in tomatoes and lots of powdery mildew on the pumpkins. No frost yet.

MARION: Fields have been very dry but the rains the first of the week at least settled some of the dust and prompted seed growers to begin planting ryegrass fields. Older fields have a fair bit of volunteers beginning to sprout. Most of the new fields of tall fescue that are going to be seeded this fall are in. Winter wheat plantings should get underway with a little more moisture.

WASHINGTON: Last of sweet corn for processors finished. Field corn mostly in silo. Potatoes in sheds. Some red clover for seed remaining to be harvested. Farmers markets have late strawberries, table grapes, pumpkins, squash, salad greens, potted perennials, fall mums, potatoes and various specialty crops. Melons and apples are plentiful. Wine grapes are still being picked. Large trees and plants being balled and shipped and plant rotation from different locations continue. Rain has arrived and 3.2 inches of rainfall occurred over last week. Temperatures ranged from 46 degrees to 71 degrees, with lows mostly at 49 degrees. Pastures were greening up.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Potato harvest about completed with generally above average yields reported. Weaning, culling, and gathering of cattle continue.

HARNEY: Cool temperatures and scattered rain showers reduced fire danger and dust in many areas. Weaning and some early shipping in progress.

HOOD RIVER: Winter pear harvest was completed, except in the latest Parkdale orchards. Late season apple harvest continued throughout the Hood River Valley.

KLAMATH: Potatoes are 80 percent harvested. Range mostly completed, most cattle gathered. Hay harvest nearly done.

LAKE: Temperatures have cooled off in the mornings. Lows have been in the mid twenties. Very cold this week, with a low of 21!

SHERMAN: This week saw a change in the weather from hot and dry to cool and dry. Wind picked up a little. First time in many years we have had green wheat emerging by opening of deer season. Some seeding right now, but many with ground still to cover are waiting until moisture comes or they will start dusting seed in about two weeks.

UNION: Sugarbeet harvest continues. Potato harvest nearly at an end. Winter wheat plantings emerging nicely, helped somewhat by recent light rains. It looks like fall is finally upon us as our string of hot and dry days seems to be at an end. Cooler temperatures, cloudy skies, rain, and even morning frosts are signaling that we can say goodbye to summer and get ready to greet Old Man Winter. Higher elevations have already seen some snow fall and mountain range lands are getting a lot of moisture now. However, colder temperatures prevent any significant new grass growth and livestock roundups continue. Most field operations, other than harvesting and planting, appear to be aimed at winter preparation. Mint and alfalfa fields were being irrigated to establish good growth before winter dormancy.

WASCO: Temperatures were cooler, both day and night, compared to the previous week. Traces of rain fell Tuesday through Saturday. However, more rain is needed for fall seeded grains. Wheat planting

continued most of the week. Field cultivation and fertilization was also active. Wine grape harvest continued through the week and picking continued in pear and apple orchards. Pasture regrowth is slow, but may start greening up next week after this week's slim moisture deposits. Most cattle herds are doing well as we go into the fall season. Some cattle being moved from mountain ranges to lower elevation pastures.

WALLOWA: Cooler temperatures towards the end of the week (high twenties/low thirties), but still not much moisture. Most fall work and seeding have been completed, but we sure could use some moisture for the fall wheat. Range conditions are very dry.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 12, 2003 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	45	66	56	3	42	13	2.24	1.19	7	4.18	-0.45	90	20
Crescent City	41	62	52	-5	19	-28	0.32	-0.45	6	0.68	-2.29	23	15
Florence	37	68	54	-3	29	-13	2.24	1.21	6	4.23	0.10	102	16
North Bend	45	66	56	1	45	4	0.92	0.18	6	2.25	-0.72	76	14
Tillamook	46	69	56	3	48	20	3.87	2.58	7	6.88	1.01	117	17
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	39	77	57	3	51	17	1.03	0.51	5	2.08	-0.27	89	11
Eugene	41	75	56	-1	41	0	1.33	0.81	5	2.15	-0.35	86	12
Hillsboro	44	68	55	1	33	2	1.90	1.40	7	2.77	0.46	120	10
McMinnville	42	71	54	-2	31	-5	1.12	0.56	7	1.95	-0.60	76	14
Portland	48	70	57	1	54	10	1.97	1.48	6	2.82	0.28	111	12
Salem	45	74	56	2	45	12	1.21	0.70	6	2.03	-0.35	85	11
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	39	83	58	0	58	2	0.08	-0.31	1	1.01	-0.51	66	5
Medford	39	83	57	-1	54	3	0.04	-0.22	1	0.90	-0.37	71	3
Roseburg	38	78	56	-2	53	0	0.24	-0.13	3	1.19	-0.54	69	6
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	36	83	53	3	34	18	0.23	0.04	1	0.73	-0.29	72	4
Heppner	37	84	58	4	57	27	0.21	0.00	2	0.68	-0.48	59	6
Hermiston	35	81	57	3	51	19	0.03	-0.07	1	0.76	0.17	129	3
John Day	30	80	53	2	36	11	0.02	-0.19	1	0.71	-0.44	62	7
Moro	35	85	53	3	36	17	0.14	0.00	3	0.39	-0.39	50	6
Pendleton	35	81	56	2	48	13	0.15	0.01	3	0.78	-0.05	94	5
The Dalles	43	80	57	5	48	25	0.15	0.01	4	0.22	-0.57	28	6
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	27	80	51	2	30	14	0.02	-0.10	1	0.47	-0.17	73	4
Burns	22	80	48	2	23	13	0.06	-0.08	2	0.66	-0.14	83	7
Klamath Falls	28	77	50	-3	20	-4	0.00	-0.20	0	0.62	-0.23	73	3
Lakeview	19	77	48	-3	18	0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.63	-0.36	64	2
Redmond	25	83	49	-2	24	5	0.20	0.13	1	0.77	0.24	145	7
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	22	82	50	2	27	12	0.08	-0.06	2	0.46	-0.52	47	6
Joseph	29	80	50	6	28	21	0.15	-0.20	2	0.76	-1.20	39	9
La Grande	27	79	51	-2	24	0	0.07	-0.19	2	0.42	-0.94	31	7
Union	28	82	53	4	36	17	0.29	0.08	3	1.19	-0.21	85	11
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	30	84	58	5	59	28	0.00	-0.11	0	0.14	-0.57	20	3
Rome	22	85	56	5	52	28	0.00	-0.08	0	0.38	-0.38	50	3

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Monday, September 1, 2003.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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